



## THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

# Joint Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panels Agenda

Crowne Plaza Charleston Airport, 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd, North Charleston, SC 29418  
April 24-25, 2024

Public comment will be solicited at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will recognize individuals to provide comment in-person or on the webinar.

**Photo scanning event for FISHstory project: Staff will be ready to scan historic photos contributed to the project on April 24.**

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**Thursday, April 25, 2024, 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Welcome and Introductions, Committee Chair Remarks – Laurilee Thompson

Approval of Agenda – Janie Thomas, Mike Merrifield

Approval of January 2023 Shrimp AP, January 2020 Joint Law Enforcement and Deepwater Shrimp AP, and November 2020 Joint Coral and Deepwater Shrimp AP minutes – Janie Thomas, Mike Merrifield

Public Comment

1. SAFMC Citizen Science Overview – Julia Byrd (*Attachment 1*)
2. Updates (*Attachments 2a – 2d*)
  - a. Coral Amendment 10 – Kathleen Howington
  - b. Fishery Disaster Relief– Allie Iberle
3. Fishery Performance Report for White Shrimp and Rock Shrimp (*Attachments 3a-c*)
  - a. Shrimp SAFE Report – Chip Collier
  - b. Fishery Performance Report Discussion – Allie Iberle/Chip Collier
  - c. AP Discussion – Janie Thomas, Mike Merrifield
4. Southern Shrimp Collaborative (*Attachment 4*)
  - a. Overview – Robert Dunn, Research Coordinator, North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve & Research Assistant Professor, Baruch Marine Field Laboratory, University of South Carolina
  - b. AP Discussion – Janie Thomas, Mike Merrifield
5. Giant Manta Ray Biological Opinion (*Attachment 5*)
  - a. Overview – Jennifer Lee, NOAA Protected Resources
  - b. AP Discussion – Janie Thomas, Mike Merrifield
6. Shrimp Futures Project (*Attachment 6a -6b*)
  - a. Overview – Carissa Gervasi, NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center
  - b. AP Discussion – Janie Thomas, Mike Merrifield
7. Other Business (*Attachments 7a-7b*)

Public Comment

Adjourn

Staff Lead: Allie Iberle ([allie.iberle@safmc.net](mailto:allie.iberle@safmc.net))

**Attachments:**

**Attachment 1a:** JointShrimpAP\_A1\_CitizenScienceUpdate\_202404

**Attachment 2a:** JointShrimpAP\_A2a\_CoralAmendment10\_202404

**Attachment 2b:** JointShrimpAP\_A2b\_CoralAmendment10Overview\_202404

**Attachment 2c:** JointShrimpAP\_A2c\_FisheryDisasterReliefOverview\_202404

**Attachment 2d:** JointShrimpAP\_A2d\_SouthernShrimpAllianceLetter\_202404

**Attachment 3a:** JointShrimpAP\_A3a\_ShrimpSAFEReport\_202404

**Attachment 3b:** JointShrimpAP\_A3b\_WhiteRockShrimpFPRDiscussionQuestions\_202404

**Attachment 3c:** JointShrimpAP\_A3c\_VirginiaShrimpFisheryMemorandum\_202404

**Attachment 4:** JointShrimpAP\_A4\_ShrimpCollaborativePresentation\_202404

**Attachment 5:** JointShrimpAP\_A5\_ShrimpBiOPReinPresentation\_202404

**Attachment 6a:** JointShrimpAP\_A6a\_ShrimpFuturesPresentation\_202404

**Attachment 6b:** JointShrimpAP\_A6b\_ShrimpFuturesOnePager\_202404

**Attachment 7a:** JointShrimpAP\_A7a\_GlobeNetSubmarineCablesFlyer1\_202404

**Attachment 7b:** JointShrimpAP\_A7b\_GlobeNetSubmarineCablesFlyer2\_202404

**OVERVIEW**  
**Joint Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panels**

**Introductions and Committee Chair Remarks**

**1. Citizen Science Update (*Attachment 1*)**

Staff will present a brief update on the Council’s Citizen Science Program and pilot projects. Updates will be given on projects underway, the Program’s Project Idea Portal, and Citizen Science advisory groups.

Additionally, on April 24<sup>th</sup>, staff will hold a scanning event to gather historic fishing photos for the FISHstory project. FISHstory has developed a method for archiving and analyzing historic fishing photos from the 1940s-1980s. These photos tell an important story about the catch and size of fish caught from these historic fisheries before catch monitoring programs were in place. **To help the project grow, we need more historic saltwater fishing photos from the 1940s-1980s throughout the South Atlantic region (NC, SC, GA, and FL).** More details on the scanning event are available [HERE](#) or in the attached flyer.

**AP Action:** Identify AP members that would be interested in serving on the Citizen Science Projects Advisory Committee.

**2. Updates (*Attachments 2a-2d*)**

**Coral Amendment 10 (*Attachments 2a-2b*)**

In 2013, via Coral Amendment 8, the Oculina Habitat Area of Particular Concern (OHAPC) was expanded and an area that was previously accessible to the rock shrimp fishery was closed. Coral Amendment 10 (2021) proposed a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern boundary of the OHAPC to restore access to shrimping. The amendment was submitted to NMFS in 2021, however it was disapproved due to the amendment not adequately demonstrating how a decision to open the area to rock shrimp fishing is consistent with Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requirements related to essential fish habitat and bycatch, and the goals and objectives of the Coral Fishery Management Plan. In September of 2022 the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) staff presented the results of a visual survey conducted in the proposed shrimp fishery access area. The study did not find evidence of Oculina coral within the proposed shrimp fishery access area. In December 2023 the Council reviewed the timeline of the amendment and directed staff to begin work to resubmit Coral Amendment 10 to NOAA Fisheries.

**AP Action:** Review the details of the amendment and resubmission and discuss the following:

- Would the area be used by shrimp fishery if reopened?
- Does the shrimp industry need this area?
- What would be the benefit of opening the area?
- Are there additional recommendations the APs would like to make to the Council?

### **Fishery Disaster Relief (*Attachments 2c and 2d*)**

Due to increased imports of aquaculture raised shrimp from foreign countries and loss of infrastructure, significant declines in shrimp commodity prices across U.S. markets have resulted in shrimp fishermen struggling to sell their catch. Staff have included the Southern Shrimp Alliance Report and letter to governors from August 2023. Staff will review a presentation on anti-dumping and state action to facilitate discussion.

**AP Action:** Discuss the current economic state of the U.S. shrimp fishery and how the Council can assist or support U.S. shrimp fishermen.

### **3. White and Rock Shrimp Fishery Performance Reports (*Attachments 3a -3c*)**

Currently, there is not an updated picture of the white and rock shrimp fishery. The fishery performance reports (FPR) will be used to describe stakeholder perceptions of both fisheries and inform the Council on any future federal shrimp management decisions.

Council staff will review the SAFE report for both the white and rock shrimp fisheries and go over a series of discussion questions intended to gather additional information from AP members on various aspects of the fisheries to better inform management.

**AP Action:** Provide information to develop the FPRs.

### **4. Southern Shrimp Collaborative (*Attachment 4*)**

The Southern Shrimp Collaborative will present results from their NOAA-funded project focusing on the estuarine life stages of brown and white shrimp in nursery habitats from Georgia to South Carolina. Through this project, the responses of shrimp populations to environmental change were analyzed by conducting field sampling, laboratory-based experiments, and analyzing 40 years of fisheries independent datasets. The Southern Shrimp Collaborative is a project coordinated by the National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative (NERRS). NERRS supports science for estuarine and coastal decision-makers through a cooperative agreement with the University of Michigan Water Center and NOAA, coordinating regular funding opportunities and supporting user driven collaborative research.

**AP Action:** Review project details and provide feedback

### **5. Giant Manta Ray Biological Opinion (*Attachment 5*)**

During the September 2023 Council meeting, the Council received a review of the reinitiation of the Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation on giant manta ray and smalltooth sawfish. The APs will receive an updated presentation on this biological opinion from NOAA Protected Resources Division.

**AP Action:** Review the information provided on the biological opinion and provide input as needed.

### **6. Shrimp Futures Project (*Attachment 6*)**

Shrimp Futures is a collaborative project between NOAA Fisheries' Southeast s Fisheries Science Center and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. It is intended to address current challenges within the shrimp fishery and develop a picture of what the fishermen want to see in the future. Focusing initially on the Gulf shrimp fishery, this project will consist of a series of stakeholder workshops that will utilize participatory conceptual modeling combined with information gathered during recent Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) focus groups to characterize the current state of the shrimp fishery, develop short and long-term visions for the fishery, identify conceptual management objectives, and identify major pathways or impediments to the vision for the fishery. The APs will receive an overview of the project.

**AP Action:** Review project details and provide feedback.

## **7. Other Business**

### **Submarine Cables (*Attachment 7a and 7b*)**

One of the obstacles facing shrimp fishermen in the South Atlantic may be the interaction of gear with submarine cables. Provided for the AP is a map of these cable locations in Florida and contact information for Globe Net and Sea Risk Solutions. Sea Risk Solutions provides information and risk mitigation to maritime interests, including information on cable awareness for shrimp fishermen.